

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

Supplemental
Consent

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February 3, 2004

FROM: PETER R. HILLS, Fire Chief/Fire Warden
San Bernardino County Consolidated Fire District

SUBJECT: VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FY 2004/2005-GRANT APPLICATIONS

RECOMMENDATION: Acting as the governing body of the County Service Area 70, San Bernardino County Consolidated Fire District (County Fire), and all Board Governed Fire Districts and County Service Areas with fire powers, as listed in the attached summary schedule, on file with the Clerk of the Board:

1. Authorize submittal of applications to the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), for the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program under the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, requesting FY 2004/05 grant funds in the aggregate amount of \$81,540.50, for the filing period closing January 30, 2004.
2. Authorize Peter R. Hills, Fire Chief/Fire Warden, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and deliver all necessary applications for the purpose of securing these grant funds.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Each year, CDF administers the application and awarding of grants for the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (VFA), for communities with a population that is fewer than 10,000 people or groups of smaller communities joined together in a combined effort to service more than 10,000 people. This program provides financial assistance to rural fire protection agencies for upgrading their capability to organize, train and equip local forces for fire protection. California expects to receive approximately \$960,000 out of the national allocation to be funded for fiscal year 2004/2005. Awards will be limited to a minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$20,000 per agency (individual fire district and related community).

County Fire is recommending submission of 21 applications, as detailed on the attached summary schedule, which identifies specific equipment purchases in connection with the grant funding. The total proposed project costs amount to \$163,081. County Fire is requesting grant funding in the aggregate amount of \$81,540.50, and the applicant districts would be required to match any awarded amount on a dollar for dollar basis up to \$81,540.50.

Grant applications are due to CDF by January 30, 2004. Due to the short period of time available to gather and prepare grant information prior to the deadline, it was necessary to obtain an extension to February 3, 2004 to gain Board authorization to submit applications to CDF.

Approval of these recommendations will approve submission of the 21 applications to CDF for the purpose of securing grant funding, and authorize the County Fire Chief/Fire Warden, or his designee, to sign and deliver the applications.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY OTHERS: This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (L. Thomas Krahelski, Deputy 387-5436) on January 28, 2004. This item has been reviewed by the County Administrative Office (Wayne Thies, Administrative Analyst, 387-5409) on January 29, 2004.

Approved by:

Norm Kanold, Interim ACA, ED/PSG

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

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FINANCIAL IMPACT: County Fire is submitting 21 applications with total proposed project costs in the amount of \$163,081, as outlined in the summary schedule attached. County Fire will be directly responsible for managing the grant funding for 20 of the 21 applications (which relate to Board-Governed Fire Districts); Mt. Baldy, a volunteer fire organization, will purchase equipment using matching funds from within their operating fund. County Fire is requesting grant funding in the aggregate amount of \$81,540.50, because the grant program operates on a cost-share basis and will require 50% cost share. The 21 applicant organizations would be collectively required to match any awarded amount up to \$81,540.50. If successful, County Fire will return to the Board and seek approval to accept any grant awards and budget adjustments (including matching fund provisions) will be incorporated in the County Fire FY 2004/05 proposed district budgets.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): All

PRESENTER: PETER R. HILLS (909) 387-5948